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LOS ANGELES COUNTY

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Chief Deputy Director

**William Loos, MD**  
Acting Senior Medical Officer

January 11, 2007

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Bruce A. Chernof, M. D.  
Director and Chief Medical Officer

SUBJECT: **EMERGENCY PURCHASE OF INPATIENT PHARMACY  
SYSTEM FOR MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. – HARBOR  
HOSPITAL**

This is to inform you that the Department of Health Services (DHS) intends to purchase the QuadraMed Affinity Inpatient Pharmacy information system (IP System) for Martin Luther King, Jr. – Harbor Hospital (MLK-H) on an emergency basis pursuant to your Board's adopted "Approval of MetroCare Implementation." DHS will request that the Internal Services Department (ISD) issue a purchase order to the QuadraMed Corporation (QMDC) and the QuadraMed Affinity Corporation (Compucare) in the amount of \$832,806.86, for the acquisition of this IP System which includes system hardware, software, maintenance and professional Services.

#### BACKGROUND

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On October 17, 2006, your Board adopted the "Approval of MetroCare Implementation." As part of this approval, your Board recommended:

- "11. Direct Chief Administrative Officer, Chief Information Officer, Director of Internal Services, and Director of Health Services to develop an expedited Information Technology Workplan to bring up the new Harbor-MLK using the current Harbor-UCLA Medical Center (HUMC) platform in a timeframe consistent with the MetroCare implementation plan."

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has given DHS until March 31, 2007 to complete the MLK-H MetroCare transition, impacting approximately \$200 million in annual revenue.

HUMC, through their regional executive leadership, will be directly accountable for MLK-H's operational and clinical management. For this to occur, both facilities must be on the same Inpatient Pharmacy System.

In response to my memo dated February 23, 2006, your Board approved the purchase of IP Systems for HUMC and Olive View-UCLA Medical Center (OVUMC).

MLK-H's current inpatient pharmacy information system is the Pharmacy Stock and Control Auditing System (PSCAS), an ISD supported system. PSCAS is currently unable to provide information via interface in both directions between PSCAS and the Automated Medication Dispensing Units located on the hospital wards without significant additional systems

development. This functionality is essential for providing important medication safety improvements, including 1) an improved medication response time through automated interfaces and 2) the ability for nursing to view pharmacist review of orders, and promote decentralized pharmacy services.

Pharmacy was an area singled out by CMS in their audit. MLK-H was cited for a number of instances where medication management did not meet requirements. The tools in the new IP System will support nursing and pharmacy staff and reduce the potential for medication documentation and administration errors.

#### FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

DHS will request that the County Purchasing Agent issue an all-inclusive purchase order to QMDC in the amount of \$832,806.86. Funding for this purchase order is included in the DHS FY06-07 Adopted Budget.

#### SELECTION PROCESS

In February 2006, prior to procuring an IP System for HUMC and OVUMC, DHS conducted a rapid evaluation of the feasibility, cost, time to install, and risk associated with available pharmacy information systems that could be quickly evaluated, procured, installed, and integrated into the DHS systems environment, while meeting the most critical patient safety, regulatory compliance, accreditation, and operational efficiency requirements. In this procurement for MLK-H, DHS will acquire the same IP System.

DHS' Turnkey Healthcare Information System (HIS) is provided by QMDC. The DHS Pharmacy Director and Pharmacy Directors at HUMC and MLK-H have reviewed the functionality, cost, estimated time to install, and risks of installation of the IP System.

The IP System provides proven interface integration with DHS' HIS, providing data to support patient safety and operational efficiency. Procurement of this IP System is viewed as a low-risk strategy, because of the long-standing, satisfactory business relationship between County and QMDC and the proven integration of the HIS at six DHS main sites for close to two decades.

#### CONCLUSION

Procurement of the IP System will synchronize systems at both HUMC and MLK-H and will insure HUMC's direct accountability for MLK-H's operations and clinical management. This system is necessary to support patient safety, regulatory compliance, accreditation, and efficient operations.

DHS will include this IP System in its QMDC Board Consolidated Agreement, for the benefit of the long-term warranties offered under the Agreement.

If no objection is received from your Board by January 31, 2007, DHS will request that ISD proceed with procurement of the IP System. Upon IP System procurement, implementation will begin for the mandatory CMS transition.

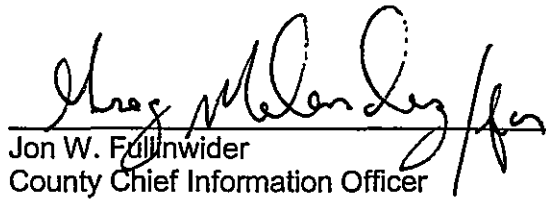
Each Supervisor  
January 11, 2007  
Page 3

If you have any questions or require additional information, please let me know.

BAC:ss

c: Chief Administrative Officer  
County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
Chief Information Officer  
Director, Internal Services Department

**NOTED AND APPROVED:**

  
Jon W. Fullinwider  
County Chief Information Officer

1/12/2007  
Date